

almond groves of La Zisa to discuss literary and philosophical questions with learned Greeks and Moslems. The name "Bad" has been fastened upon him by Falcandus, the advocate of the baronial party, which now after fifteen years of submission again began to endanger the State with their claims and their factions. For William, devoid of the political instinct, allowed, as Roger had never allowed, an all-powerful First Minister to rise to the head of affairs and the direction of the Chancellery, and in Maio of Ban, Chancellor and finally "Grand Emir of Emirs," the infuriated barons saw that most detestable of figures to a feudal aristocracy, a minister of plebeian origin excluding them from office, using the middle classes against them, basing his power on the official party, Latin, Greek, and Moslem, and maintaining skilfully the balance of power among the creeds and races of Southern Italy.

Maio's tenure of power ran to the ioth of November, 1160, when, after several plots to murder him and depose the hated King had failed, the Chancellor fell by the daggers of noble assassins in front of the archiepiscopal palace of Palermo,

The work of the Emir of Emirs had

not been in
vain. On the one hand he had suffered
the African Empire to be lost to the Almohades
(February,
1156~january, 1160), representing to
the King that
it was imperative to turn the whole
forces of the
kingdom against the ever-
threatening and now